

To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Cassie Brown, Commissioner of Workers' Compensation

Date: March 30, 2020

RE: COVID-19: Suspension of Texas Government Code Sections 607.002(1) and (2)

On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared COVID-19 a statewide public health disaster. The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is monitoring the latest developments on COVID-19 and the recommended social distancing measures.

DWC shares the following information that may be of interest to governmental entities.

In order to ensure that public safety employees of governmental entities are able to be reimbursed by their employer for reasonable medical expenses related to COVID-19, Governor Abbott has suspended Texas Government Code Sections 607.002(1) and (2) to the extent necessary to allow public safety employees, who were likely to have been exposed to COVID-19 while in the course of their employment, to be entitled to the reimbursements set forth in Section 607.002 of the Government Code.

This suspension is in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020, disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

This suspension does not impact an employee's eligibility to workers' compensation benefits.

We are all working in a continually changing environment. We will provide frequent updates with new information when necessary.

Please refer to the <u>DWC COVID-19 resource page</u>, sign up for our <u>GovDelivery email</u> <u>service</u>, and follow us on social media for periodic updates.